

Office of the Mayor

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Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor

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May 1, 2010

Mr. Council President and Town Councilors,

We share the privilege of serving our Town of Braintree in challenging times. Thus, I offer my budget plan for fiscal year 2011 for your review.

Municipal finance is inherently complex, but let me indulge in a moment of plain speaking. Our collective decisions and actions over the past two years, as we have implemented our new form of government, are starting to show promise for today and the days ahead.

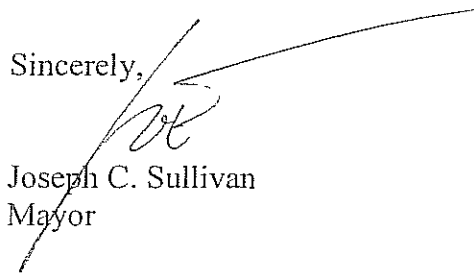
At the outset, I need to state factually that for the third consecutive year we have seen a reduction in general government local aid (state assistance). Presently, we anticipate we will receive \$700,000 less than the previous fiscal year, a four percent reduction. This budget reflects that lower amount. Thus, the total reduction over the past three fiscal years (FY09, FY10 and FY11) is approximately \$2.5 million.

However, because we have been willing to make hard choices and make economic growth a priority and effectively managed our operations, we were able this year to sustain reductions in local aid, without layoffs or reductions in services. Moreover, the willingness of our town employees to reach sensible and sustainable collective bargaining agreements allows us to meet our fiscal challenge while continuing to provide the high quality of services our residents deserve.

I welcome the opportunity to appear before you on Monday evening May 3rd, to publicly present this document and discuss this budget in greater detail. I am confident that you will discover that this financial plan for FY 2011 is based on reliable sources of revenue and continues the effort to reform our government.

Your continuing assistance and partnership in implementing our new government is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

Sincerely,


Joseph C. Sullivan
Mayor